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THE LONE STAR STATE SAW MANY STARS SPARKLE AT THE 2006 USKA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2006 USKA World Championships were held at the Hotel Intercontinental in Dallas, Texas August 3-6, 2006. It drew martial artists of all ranks and styles from all over. A great time was had by all attending the four-day event where many awards were given, friendships were made, and special times were shared. All those who placed 1st thru 4th in Forms, Sparring, or Weapons have qualified to compete in the 2007 USKA Nationals in Albuquerque, New Mexico to be held March 29th thru April 1st. Special awards included nine World Grand Champion Awards, the Trias Memorial Award, National Point Awards, and All-American Awards along with inducting two new members into the Alliance Hall of Fame.

Glenn Keeney w/Donnie Michael

Two of the World Black Belt Grand Champions retained their titles this year in Dallas, Texas, **Donnie Michael and Josh Quayhagen**. **Donnie Michael** set an unprecedented seventh win for the USKA World Black Belt Weapons Grand Champion Title. Mr. Michael, a Shorin Ryu Kobayashi stylist,

trains under the direction of **Eddie Bethea, Jr.** in Kokomo, Indiana. When you watch him perform his kata, you see his power focused through his bo as he hits his target with precision.

Eddie Bethea w/Josh Quayhagen

Josh Quayhagen, a Junior at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana, defended his 2005 USKA World Black Belt Men's Kumite Grand Champion Title at this year's WorldChampionships. A Kyo Kai Do stylist, Mr. Quayhagen is a student of **Ric Quayhagen**, his father. His speed and innate sense of timing worked well for him as he encountered opponents of different sizes and specialties in the Grand Champion round. The name "Josh Quayhagen" should be becoming familiar to you as he was this year's USKA National Champion as well.

Anna Gorman w/Guy Holtzman

Three of this year's World Grand Champions were fresh off a USKA National Grand Champion win in April, **Josh Quayhagen, Anna Gorman, and Scott Rossman**. **Anna Gorman**, a Shuri Ryu stylist, had just obtained her sixth USKA National Black Belt Women's Kumite Grand Champion Title in April, and turned right around and obtained the World Kumite Grand Champion Title in Dallas. Mrs. Gorman, a student of **Mark Gorman**, her husband, has worked hard controlling her power and speed which has made her a force to be reckoned with in the Black Belt Women's Division.

Scott Rossman of Metamora, Illinois became the 2006 USKA World Adult Kyu Kata Grand Champion in Dallas, Texas. He earned the same title in 2005, and was also the USKA seen at many USKA tournaments competing, winning grand championships, judging, winning national point titles, or perhaps giving seminars. They have helped to further the martial arts and brought it into their everyday lives, striving to make Karate-Do their way of life – like Gichin Funakoshi. This year, two new members were inducted into the Alliance Hall of Fame – **Adrian Galvan** from The Colony, Texas & **Teresa Davies** from Albuquerque, New Mexico.

EIGHT WORLD TITLES EARNED BY YOUTH IN DALLAS

Submitted by Juan Galvan

Cassie Springer, a student of Juan Galvan and Adrian Galvan in The Colony, Texas, competed in the USKA World Championships held in Dallas, Texas. She competed in eight events: Kata, Kumite, Kobudo, Koshiki, Continuous Sparring, Team Sparring, Team Kata, and Chanbara. She won all eight events and won eight world titles. Ms. Springer is the only girl on record for having done this, and what is also amazing, is that she accomplished all this with a broken toe.

Adrian Galvan & Juan Galvan w/Cassie Springer

Ms. Springer is 11 years old and has been training at Master Juan's Karate for a year. She is a member of her school's Black Belt Club and Masters Club. In Dallas, she was presented with the USKA National Points Title for Youth Girls Beginning Sparring and two awards from Louisiana State Points for Sparring and Forms. Ms. Springer is also an outstanding academic student and has been on the honor role each year. She has come so far with the help of many friends and family. Everyone is truly proud of her.

Karate Alliance and its Hall of Fame to those who exemplify the things that Grandmaster Robert Trias represented. This year, the award went out to someone who has gone above and beyond in achievements and in furthering of the martial arts throughout his lifetime, **Glenn Keeney**. Mr. Keeney is a 9th Degree Black Belt in Okinawan Goju Ryu. He is from Anderson, Indiana where he operates Komakai Academy. He was a top-rated fighter in the 1970's, a member of the US Karate Association World Champion Team, the Rules Chairman for the Association, and a Trias International award holder, to name some of his achievements. Mr. Keeney established the Professional Karate Commission which sanctions tournaments and does its best to preserve Karate-Do.

Dr. David Jordan & James Hawkes w/Glenn Keeney

The Jordan-Hawkes Young Patriot Award is an award presented by the Atlee Chittim Roll of Honor to an outstanding student who is nominated by a member of the Hall of Fame or Atlee Chittim Roll of Honor. The award is presented to an outstanding student who displays the characteristics of dedication, loyalty, outstanding character, integrity and patriotism. This year the award went to **Darbi Long, Jenna Brown, Rachael Slosky, and Lesley Lobato**.

The All-American and the Junior All-American Awards are given out to those competitors who have placed first in more than one USKA National Points category. This year the awards went out to:

All-American Award (Adult Black Belts) - **Adrian Galvan and Angelica Drexel.**

Jr. All-American – **Perry Sharma** (first in 3 categories) and **Lisa Mullan, David Hamilton, Kasey Brandt, Matthew Ouellette, Jordan White, Garett Thomas, Keili Summey, Davis Meiering, Tori Summey, Dallis Meiering, Trevor Breault**.

Each year at the USKA World Championships, the Alliance Hall of Fame members interview prospective candidates for possible induction into the Alliance Hall of Fame. These individuals are selected from outstanding martial artists whom you have probably

National Grand Champion in 2006. Mr. Rossman, a nursing student at Illinois Central College, is a Brown Belt in Shuri Ryu and is a student of **Joe Walker**. He is a strong competitor who works preciseness of technique, and it shows.

At the USKA World Championships, the Grand Champion Black Belt Kata winner is determined in the following manner: All first place Adult Black Belt Kata winners compete in a run-off to determine which two martial artists will go head to head for the Grand Champion honors. These two compete at the finals performing their kata and receiving scores. Then they perform their kata again, with live opponents and are given scores. After the high and low are dropped, the scores are added *together to determine the Grand* Champion. This year, **Dominic Laureano and Jeff Crothers** were the top two kata competitors who competed for the title at the Finals on Sunday evening. These two competitors, both from California, Mr. Laureano from Riverside and Mr. Crothers from Carlsbad, have competed against one another on numerous occasions.

Joe Walker w/Scott Rossman

Mr. Laureano is a Shuri Ryu stylist who trains with **Maria Evans** and Mr. Crothers is a Keichu Do stylist who trains with **Karl Marx**.

When Finals started on Sunday, they had each practiced for hours with the opponents they had chosen. Their opponents, or ukes, are very important and all did a wonderful job. When it came time for the Grand Champion Kata round, Dominic Laureano and Jeff Crothers bowed into the ring. Mr. Laureano went first, performing Kanku Sho then Mr. Crothers performed Nikyu Ni. They were each given scores. Then they each performed with their opponents, showing the bunkai or practical application. They were each given scores for this portion. It *was a very close performance, and* the audience waited as the scores were double checked. Then the announcement was made: The 2006 USKA World Black Belt Kata Grand Champion is **Dominic Laureano**. The room was filled with excitement.

Dominic Laureano was the recipient of the Trias Memorial Award in 1999. He operates the Shozen Martial Arts School in Perris, CA under Maria Evans. He is no stranger to the tournament circuit where he is a seasoned competitor; He also placed 4th in Weapons at World this year. This was his first time to be one of the final two in the Grand Champion round at the World Championships.

Glenn Keeney, Maria Evans, Robert Bowles w/Dominic Laureano & Uke Team

Noe Vasquez won the World Youth Advanced Kata Grand Champion honors this year. He also took 4th in Kumite in the Teen Advanced Division. Mr. Vasquez is a 14 year old Junior Black Belt in Kenpo from Rialto, CA. He is currently studying Shuri Ryu under the instruction of **Maria Evans**.

Tiffany Davis earned the World Youth Beginning/Intermediate Kata Grand Champion Trophy this year. Ms. Davis is a 15 year old Purple Belt in TaeKwonDo. She is a student of **Toby Sinclair's** from Cotton Valley, Louisiana. Mr. Sinclair said that she has worked hard on Palgwe 7, the form she competed with at World, and that her form is crisp and her techniques have good focus.

Sabutai Musashi w/Noe Vasquez

Maria Evans w/Tiffany Davis

Oscar Franco is a Brown Belt under the instruction of **Robert Bowles** in Indiana. He earned the World Adult Kyu Weapons Grand Champion honors this year with an Eiku form. Mr. Franco, a Shuri Ryu practitioner, showed his power throughout his form as he wielded his Eiku in Dallas.

Sabutai Musashi w/Oscar Franco

The first three times **Keili Summey** competed at the USKA World Championships, she took 1st place in her Weapons division. Three years ago she decided to challenge herself even more by running an Eiku Form, Naha Chatan No Eiku Tiichi, at World. The first year she ran the form, she took 3rd place and the second year, she took 2nd place. This year, she earned the title of the USKA World Youth Weapons Grand Champion. Ms. Summey is a Shuri Ryu stylist from Phoenix, AZ where she is a student of **Mike Klier's.** She and her sister, Tori, are good competition for each other as they are often in the same division, and push each other to do better and better.

Maria Evans w/Keili Summey

On Saturday evening at the Awards banquet in Dallas, many martial artists of all ages, ranks, and styles were recognized for their many achievements. The USKA National Point Awards were presented to those who placed 1st through 10th in the 2005/2006 point year. It was great to hear the thank you speeches all the 1st place winners of all the divisions gave after receiving their awards. This year's Instructor of the Year Award went to **Adrian and Juan Galvan** of **Master Juan's Karate** in The Colony, Texas. The Team of the Year Award went to **Jim Hawkes Karate** in Albuquerque, New Mexico; **James Hawkes and Lee Kittell** – Instructors.

The Trias Memorial Award is an award presented by the U.S.